

Peace, Security and Cooperation Framework for the Democratic Republic of the Congo and the region¹

1. Significant progress has been achieved in the Democratic Republic of the Congo over the past decade. The local and regional peace processes initiated at that time laid the foundation for relative peace and stability in large parts of the country. Similarly, the Government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo has begun some reforms, with partners' support, that are intended to lay the ground for economic recovery, and the democratization of the country.
2. However, eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo has continued to suffer from recurring cycles of conflict and persistent violence by armed groups, both Congolese and foreign.
3. The consequences of this violence have been nothing short of devastating. Acts of sexual violence and serious violations of human rights are used regularly and almost daily as weapons of war. Displacement figures are among the highest in the world and persistently hover near two million people. The implementation of the country's reconstruction and poverty alleviation program is regularly disrupted.
4. Despite these challenges, the recent crisis has created a window of opportunity to address the root causes of conflict and put an end to recurring cycles of violence. There is increasing recognition that the current path is untenable. Beginning with a cessation of hostilities concrete action is needed by the Democratic Republic of the Congo Government, with the support of partners, by countries in the region, and by the international community and building on the efforts already underway by the International Conference of the Great Lakes Region and the Southern African Development Community.
5. The principles of engagement at each of these levels shall consist of commitments in the following areas:

For the Government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo:

A renewed commitment:

- To continue, and deepen security sector reform, particularly with respect to the Army and Police;
- To consolidate State authority, particularly in eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo, including to prevent armed groups from destabilizing neighbouring countries;
- To make progress with regard to decentralization;
- To further economic development, including with respect to the expansion of infrastructure and basic social service delivery;
- To further structural reform of Government institutions, including financial reform; and
- To further the agenda of reconciliation, tolerance and democratization.

¹ In this context, region is defined as the signatory countries of the agreement.

For the region:

A renewed commitment:

- Not to interfere in the internal affairs of neighbouring countries;
- To neither tolerate nor provide assistance or support of any kind to armed groups;
- To respect the sovereignty and territorial integrity of neighbouring countries;
- To strengthen regional cooperation including deepening economic integration with special consideration for the exploitation of natural resources;
- To respect the legitimate concerns and interests of the neighbouring countries, in particular regarding security matters;
- To neither harbour nor provide protection of any kind to persons accused of war crimes, crimes against humanity, acts of genocide or crimes of aggression, or persons falling under the United Nations sanctions regime; and,
- To facilitate the administration of justice through judicial cooperation within the region.

For the international community:

- A renewed commitment by the Security Council and bilateral partners to remain engaged in supporting the Democratic Republic of the Congo and the region, including with appropriate means to ensure long-term sustainability;
- A strategic review of the United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo that aims to strengthen support to the Government to enable it to address security challenges and extend State authority;
- Appointment of a United Nations Special Envoy to support efforts to reach durable solutions in a multi-track plan that allows the convergence of all initiatives in progress.

Oversight mechanisms

6. To promote these principles, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, regional partners, and the international community should work in a synchronized manner.
7. A regional oversight mechanism involving these leaders of the region, namely the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Rwanda and Uganda, with the good offices of the Secretary-General in the role of guarantor, shall be established to meet regularly and review progress in the implementation of the regional commitments outlined above, with due regard for the national sovereignty of the States concerned. This 3 + 1 mechanism shall be supported by and closely linked to ongoing regional efforts by the African Union, International Conference of the Great Lakes Region, Southern African Development Community, as well as those of other international partners, including the European Union, France, the United Kingdom, the United States, and Belgium. The detailed plan for the implementation of this Framework will be developed jointly including the establishment of benchmarks and appropriate follow-up measures.
8. The President of the Democratic Republic of the Congo shall put in place, within the Government, a national oversight mechanism in order to accompany, and oversee the implementation of the national commitments for reform outlined above. The United Nations, the African Union, the World Bank, and other bilateral or multilateral partners of the Democratic Republic of the Congo that are agreed upon shall provide support to this mechanism.

9. The national oversight mechanism will operate in full respect of the national sovereignty of the Democratic Republic of the Congo.
10. In the Democratic Republic of the Congo, the United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo shall be part of the solution, continuing to work closely with the Democratic Republic of the Congo Government.

Done aton/...../.....

H.E. Mr. José Eduardo dos Santos
President of the Republic of Angola

H.E. Mr. Pierre Nkurunziza
President of the Republic of Burundi

H.E. Mr. Joseph Kabila Kabange
President of the Democratic Republic of the Congo

H.E. Mr. Denis Sassou Nguesso
President of the Republic of Congo

H.E. Mr. Paul Kagame
President of the Republic of Rwanda

H.E. Mr. Jacob Zuma
President of the Republic of South Africa

H.E. Mr. Jakaya Mrisho Kikwete
President of the United Republic of Tanzania

H.E. Mr. Yoweri Kaguta Museveni
President of the Republic of Uganda

H.E. Dr. Nkosazana Dlamini Zuma
Chairperson of the African Union Commission
Witness

H.E. Mr. BAN Ki-moon
Secretary-General of the United Nations
Witness